

The Times-Dispatch.

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TUESDAY, MARCH 10, 1903.

THE CONFERENCE FOR EDUCATION.

A circular has been issued by the Executive Committee of the Conference for Education in the South, calling attention to the meeting of the conference in the city of Richmond on Wednesday, the 22d of April. "During the five years in which the conference has been in existence," says the circular, "its spirit and aims have been increasingly manifest. All sincere friends of education are welcomed to its convocations. The controlling policy has not been concerned with the professional side of education, but is directed toward the consideration and discussion of such topics as have a common interest for patriotic and intelligent citizens, every rank of educators, officers of educational corporations, legislators and public educational officials."

"Through the spirit developed at the former conferences certain beneficial results are clearly evident. Among them may be noted a more intelligent public opinion and a more active public conscience in educational affairs, the promotion of helpful co-operation among teachers, the encouragement of teachers through the sympathetic power evolved by the common educational purpose of a great company of earnest men and women, and the general impetus created by the cumulative power of a growing moral earnestness in behalf of universal education. To broaden and deepen these and other cognate influences is the aim of the committee to which the arrangement of the approaching conference is delegated."

We are distressed to see that some of the newspapers in Virginia are not only refusing to give this movement their support, but are actually doing all in their power to injure it and prejudice the people against it. We can but conclude that this opposition is due to ignorance. We do not believe that any patriotic Virginian who thoroughly understands the movement can find it in his heart to oppose it. But some Virginians have taken it for granted that this is a "missionary movement" on the part of Northern people, who are coming here to "colonize" Yankee school marmas and upset our customs and conditions and try to convert our children to the Northern view.

In point of fact, the men who are at the head of this movement have no intention of establishing schools of their own in the South, have no intention of doing anything except in hearty co-operation with the authorities in the several States. When the executive officer of the General Education Board was asked several months ago who were his agents in Virginia he replied that they were Governor Montague and Superintendent Southall, and that is literally the fact. The General Education Board, which is supplying the money, is working heart and soul with the school authorities, and the simple fact that the Governors and school authorities of the several Southern States have received the Northern men kindly and have agreed to work with them ought to be sufficient evidence to the most skeptical that there is no foundation for their misgivings.

But the Southern Conference for Education is entirely distinct from the General Education Board and from the Southern Education Board. It is a sort of free lance affair, and everybody is invited to come in and hear the discussions and participate in them. It commits the delegates to nothing. The conference is composed largely of Southern men, although there are educators from all sections of the United States, who meet together every year and exchange views as to conditions, as to ways and means and methods. This conference has been invited to Richmond by distinguished citizens of Richmond, by the Richmond Education Association, by the Richmond Chamber of Commerce, by the Governor of the State, by the Legislature and Department of Education, by the University of Virginia and Washington and Lee University. If this is not representative, then we do not know how it is possible to get a representative invitation in this State. We submit that the interests of Virginia are quite as safe in the hands of these representative men and women as in the hands of a few people who have not even taken the trouble to investigate.

The Times-Dispatch heartily and enthusiastically approves the Southern Conference for Education and the Southern Education Board and the General Education Board and the entire movement, and The Times-Dispatch is intensely Southern and intensely Virginian and as jealous of the traditions as any newspaper in the State. The conference will be the grand educational rally Virginia ever had, and we hope that it will be attended by every man and woman in the State who has the cause of education at heart.

A MONEY PINCH.

Last Saturday's bank statement from New York showed that the surplus reserves were practically wiped out, and the banks are forced to curtail their loans in order to recover. The banks lost

in cash during the week \$10,176,600, most of which was due to operations with the sub-treasury, which gained heavily on the bank operations, custom payments and internal revenue collections having been very large.

The United States Treasury has no need for this money; the government has more money than is necessary to carry on its affairs, but under our wretched system it is drawn out of circulation and it back into the channels of trade. This sort of thing has been going on for years, and every now and then the Secretary of the Treasury is compelled to resort to all sorts of devices, anticipating interest, buying in bonds, anticipating pension payments, and so on, in order to get rid of the surplus and prevent financial stringency on the outside.

The drain has been especially severe during the past several weeks, and thus it was that Senator Aldrich attempted to get through his bill to authorize the Secretary of the Treasury to deposit this money in the banks upon satisfactory collateral. Under the provisions of the bill, every safeguard was thrown around the government deposits, and the government was to receive not less than 11-2 per cent. interest on such deposits. But for reasons best known to themselves, most of the Democratic Senators were opposed to it, and the bill was killed off.

As we have more than once said, the Aldrich bill was a mere temporary expedient, but it was a necessary expedient, and in our opinion it was a great mistake for the Democrats to have choked it to death. They were not compelled to vote for it, even though the bill had been put on its passage. They might have voted against it, and still have let it go through, and let the responsibility be on the Republicans.

For the time being there is a pinch in the money market, and the Democrats are getting the blame for it. We do not write this in a complaining spirit, but it seems to us well enough to call the attention of Democrats to the fact that it would be a mistake for the party to put itself in the attitude of hostility to the financial interests of the land. It is right for the Democratic party to look after the interests of the people first of all; to regulate corporations, and all that, but there is no sense in "defeating" a measure like the Aldrich bill simply and solely because some people had the idea that it was a bill in the interest of the banks. The bill was not in the interest of the banks, but in the interest of the people. Something was said during the discussion with regard to Wall Street speculators, but this money-pinch has not come through speculation, for speculation has been very tame during the past several months. There is, during this active period, an enormous demand for money in carrying on the great transactions of the day, and in such an emergency it is shameful that the government should be withdrawing money from the people when the government does not need it, and so crippling the people in their business affairs.

But a lesson has been learned, or should have been learned. It is quite plain that the system should be so radically changed as to prevent the possibility of a government surplus, and to give the people an elastic currency, independent of the government, which will respond naturally to the demands of the trade. If this shall be the final outcome, the defeat of the Aldrich bill will be a blessing in disguise.

Another failure of Negro suffrage. Since the Secretary of War, Mr. Root, declared that "negro suffrage is a failure," several incidents have occurred which go far to confirm this view. The voluminous testimony taken by the House Committee on Elections, upon whose preliminary report Representative Butler, of Missouri, was elected from his seat in spite of a majority of more than 6,000 votes, affords a striking proof of this "failure," at least so far as the Republican party is concerned. The Twelfth District of Missouri (part of St. Louis), which was formerly a Republican stronghold, contains from 3,000 to 4,000 negro voters. These colored citizens up to quite recent years voted the Republican ticket in mass—solidly, in fact, that in 1893 only eighteen of them "would stand out openly for the Democratic party." But, as appears from the evidence before the committee, a great change has taken place in the sentiments and moral course of these negro voters. This serves in large degree to account for the changed attitude of the Republican majority in Congress, and for the growing opinion among the Republican leaders that the "experiment" of negro suffrage, as Secretary Root calls it, is a "failure."—Philadelphia Record.

NEWS FROM NORFOLK.

Our Norfolk correspondent quotes a Norfolk lawyer as saying that the states which have adopted the Torrens Land Registry System are now trying to repeal it. Then, why don't they do it? Isn't the State sovereign?

But if any State which has this system is trying to get rid of it, we have not heard the news. On the contrary the system is growing rapidly in volume and in public favor in Massachusetts, if we may judge by reliable letters received from those States and by the reports.

It is true that a Chicago newspaper of recent date contained an article from a citizen in which several objections were raised to the system, but upon investigation it was ascertained that the correspondent was interested in an Abstract Title Company.

We note, by the way, that such a company has been formed in Norfolk, and our correspondent says that interest in that concern deters some citizens from expressing an opinion on the Torrens system.

There was a great meeting held in Brooklyn Sunday in memory of Henry Ward Beecher. Ex-President Cleveland was the chief orator of the occasion. He spoke of Mr. Beecher as "Our Hero." A fund was started to erect a Memorial

Hall of Patriotism in the preacher's honor. There was one subscription of \$10,000; another of \$5,000, etc.

Mr. Cleveland said that a sermon which he heard Mr. Beecher preach forty-nine years ago had been a source of unfailing comfort to him. In describing Mr. Beecher's title to heroism, he spoke of the days of "his country's danger and trial," when the great Plymouth pulpitier "challenged all comers in defense of our national safety and unity." He "stood like a rock at home" and "fronted angry, threatening throngs abroad." And then, too, said Mr. Cleveland, when Mr. Beecher "felt the cruel stings of man's ingratitude and malice, he sorely looked toward his Heavenly Father's face and kept within the comforting light of a pure conscience."

New Jersey is doing a vast deal to encourage oyster culture.

A State commission appointed to investigate the subject has just made an elaborate report and the State's system of leasing out oyster grounds is to be amended and improved. The output of Maurice River cove alone, where only 15,000 acres are under lease, is \$2,000,000 per annum. It is believed that there are now 100,000 acres of land in New Jersey, yielding nothing, which can be made richly productive.

The commission recommends that all bottoms suitable for the cultivation of oysters shall be subject to lease, or purchase, excepting natural oyster beds.

The report sets forth the fact that nearly all the seed-oysters used in New Jersey are obtained in the Chesapeake Bay, or its tributaries. We also learn that the question of what is or is not a "natural bed" is constantly arising, and causing trouble in New Jersey as it is in the State of Virginia.

Mr. William S. Hammond, of Washington, D. C., writes to the Baltimore Sun to say that Virginia has produced more presidents and penmen than any other State. Congressman Lacy, of Iowa, who doesn't wish to see a statue of Lee in Statuary Hall, he classes among the latter.

We do not know why Mr. Hammond wishes to bring reproach upon the humble and succulent "rooster," which just now happens to be all the rage in Parisian fashionable circles, and which will live and prosper long after Mr. Lacy is forgotten.

No Southern Republican ever retired from Congress with as many bouquets from the Democrats as Senator Pritchard, of North Carolina. He is a Republican strong enough, but he is a North Carolinian to the heart, and, according to the North Carolina papers, he did work for the old State that will be to her good for many years to come.

The forty rebellious law students of the West Virginia University have made peace with the faculty, apologized and withdrawn their application for an injunction, to save themselves from the threatened dismissal.

Thus they will continue to study law and not practice it, just yet.

The Chesterfield weather prophet predicts "muskat weather" for the next few days, and, in consequence, a considerable thickening up of the James.

There seems to be no end to the activity of Woodrow Wilson. He has announced plans for the extension of Princeton University which will cost \$12,000,000, and what is more, has set about getting the money.

Twelve millions! Think of that!

It is said there is an inclination among leading Republicans to reaffirm their 1900 platform. It has not been injured by constant use, and is in good enough physical condition, so far as that goes.

If you think coal has reached bottom, and you have the cash, now is a good time to lay in next winter's supply of fuel. We can't most always tell what a summer may bring forth in the way of strikes and such like.

Ex-Senator Billy Mason has begun to realize that in some way the country is going to survive his retirement to private life.

The James River can get on a terrible rampage sometimes, but we might have things much worse. Look at the Mississippi, for instance.

Amherst county whiskey got something of a jar along with other products of that county in the committee's findings.

The next judge of Amherst will doubtless think twice before he "beards" the sheriff in his official den.

Mr. Poulney Bigelow is also anxious to settle the race problem.

According to cablegrams Pope Leo XIII. is constantly and persistently disregarding the advice of his physician, and in public favor in Massachusetts, if we may judge by reliable letters received from those States and by the reports.

And the Hon. James K. Jones, of Arkansas, franks no more pub. docs. to Little Rock.

Having no revolution on hand at present Bolivar and Brazil are trying to get up a scrap between themselves.

Personal and General.

The richest man in the world is said to be Alfred Beit, who was Cecil Rhodes' partner. His wealth is estimated at from \$300,000,000 to nearly a billion.

The newly-elected Mayor of Brockton, Mass., is a union plumber.

Eight fine stags have been sent by the Emperor of Austria as a present to the Czar.

During the eleven months ending October 1, 1902, there were organized and chartered by the affiliated national unions and by the American Federation of Labor direct, 3,500 local unions, with a membership of 300,000.

Dr. Rafael Zaldivar, former president of Salvador, and lately minister of that republic in Washington, died in Paris last week.

Joseph Henry Shorthouse, the author of "John Inglesant" and other novels, has just died in London, in his sixty-ninth year.

Clement Scott, the well known author and dramatic critic, is seriously ill at his home in London.

"All that is human must retrograde if it do not advance."
—Gibson's "Decline and Fall."

Gorham Silver

has steadily advanced during the last three-quarters of a century. Design, workmanship, material, all are superlative, the price only comparative.

All responsible jewelers keep it.

The Man ABOUT TOWN

DAILY CALENDAR, MARCH 10.
1810—Napoleon dies.
1903—We are not feeling so well ourselves.

Ditto—Mansfield in town.
Ditto—We saw "Bugsy" Izzy."

There is a lot of commotion at our humble abode.

The society editor of this sheet has asked us to give her a photograph of the Six, and, hence, the commotion. The old clothes bag is being ransacked for something fit to wear, so the camera at Foster's gallery went to work.

They let their pictures look before, and we don't think they will be able to study any lessons until this event in their lives has become a thing of the past.

Spring, spring, any old thing!
Give us a sunny day;
Give us a chance to wear our new pants
And our red and blue necktie, so gay!

There is something up between Captain G. D. Wise and the Hon. Harry Curfew Glenn.

It's a good joke whatever it is. For the Captain was telling it to Justice John when we appeared on the scene, and when we got there the subject was changed, and they started to talk about the weather.

We learned, however, that the story was about a story that Hon. Curfew got out of a book and passed off on a fellow of our good old McDowell, to stop at his right Gladstone, in Norfolk, all summer.

We are going to find out what it is and expose whoever is implicated in the affair.

We don't care how low or how high the price of ice goes this summer, for we have just accepted an invitation from our good old friend, McDowell, to stop at his right Gladstone, in Norfolk, all summer.

And they tell us that is a cool spot, even in August.

In order to allay suspicion, we wish to say that the reason we have begun to lay in a stock of pistols, boxing gloves, broad swords, prize matches, loaded cigars, roller skates, bicycles, and knock-out drops, is that we have accepted the position of official umpire in the Four-City League, of which Messrs. Bradley and Donati are the main guys.

We have also taken out an accident policy through Colonel Carter Brandon, who guarantees that our grave shall be carefully whitewashed every summer.

North Carolina Sentiment.

The Winston-Salem Sentinel says: "Senator Arthur Poe Gorman, of Maryland, has returned to his former place as leader of the Democratic party in Congress. The skies are beginning to brighten. There is a man whose leadership inspires confidence."

The Raleigh Post is also pleased. It says: "The country, as well as the party, feels much safer with Arthur Poe Gorman back in the Senate and at the head of the party. He is a safe head in all emergencies."

The Asheville Citizen says: "If the precedent set by the Republican majority in this case from Missouri is to be the one followed by the next House in the contest from this district, Mr. Guderger is wasting his time in taking evidence. In such case, though his proofs be strong, as Holy Writ, they will avail him nothing."

The Charlotte News says: "The case of Mrs. Maybrick has always been an interesting topic to the South. For Mrs. Maybrick, once of good old Southern stock, and the land, and still has a host of friends and admirers who will always believe that in her case English justice seriously miscarried."

The Charlotte Observer, noting the action of our Legislature in voting \$10,000 for the Stuart monument, says: "Virginia runs to monuments. Having had men of whose records it is proud, it believes in perpetuating their memory in this visible and imperishable form. Its Capital City is dotted with such edifices. Would that there were more of such sentiment in North Carolina!"

An Hour With Virginia Editors

The Norfolk Virginian-Pilot says: "The Virginia Republicans are reported to be much disgruntled because Roosevelt has not made a place for them at the Department of Commerce, and are threatening to throw the Virginia delegation to somebody else. Roosevelt will find the appetite of the Virginia Republican is not a thing to be flouted."

Roanoke is disappointed and disposed to grumble. The Evening World says: "Here in Roanoke we only wanted a little crumb in the way of a United States Court building—an absolute necessity for the proper administration of Federal justice, and are disappointed to find that there is a little envy down this way at Washington's plethora of the good things of which we were denied a modest taste."

The Luray News is hopeful. It says: "The Virginia press has again earnestly grappled with the good roads problem, with prospects of the same old result. Who can estimate the kegs of printers' ink unselfishly shed in this cause?"

The Clinch Valley News says: "The State must be getting better, as local option elections will be held in several counties in the State this spring. Credit this to the work of the Anti-Saloon League."

ANSWER TO INJUNCTION

Sweeping Denial of Charges Made by the Company.

AFFIDAVITS WERE FILED

Judge Adams Will To-Day Set a Date for the Argument at Eleven o'Clock To-Morrow—Wabash Counsel Preparing for Legal Battle.

(By Associated Press.)
ST. LOUIS, Mo., March 9.—A sweeping denial of all the charges made by the Wabash Railway Company in its bill of complaint, upon which was issued the injunction to prevent a strike among its employees, was contained in the answer to the injunction suit filed to-day in the United States District Court.

In support of the answer were filed the affidavits of all those named in the injunction against the Brotherhood of Trainmen and Firemen.

At 11 o'clock to-morrow Judge Adams will set a day for argument.

The motion to dissolve the injunction, briefly stated, is based on the grounds that the writ of injunction was improperly granted; that charges of illegal conspiracy contained in the bill of complaint are unfounded and disproved; that there is no equity in the bill of complaint; that the answer was issued without notice and that all material charges in the bill are denied.

President Ramsey, of the Wabash, and the company's legal counsel, began the preparation of their arguments against the answer immediately after it was filed and continued busily at work all day. None of the Brotherhood officials have left the city. All say they are well satisfied with the answer and its contents.

NO RESTRICTION.

The answer denies that the Wabash firemen or trainmen brotherhood ever placed any restriction on the employees. The answer states that the Wabash officials deny that they frequently presented their grievances to the Wabash officials for adjustment, and the officials of said company have persistently refused to take up the grievances.

The answer denies that the Wabash officials deny that they frequently presented their grievances to the Wabash officials for adjustment, and the officials of said company have persistently refused to take up the grievances.

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A DRAMATIC NOVEL OF THE FALL OF RICHMOND

Before the Dawn

By JOSEPH A. ALTHEIMER,
Author of "In Hostile Red," "A Herald of the West," etc.

AN EXCITING LOVE STORY WEAVES ITSELF THROUGH THE DRAMATIC PICTURES OF THE FIGHTING IN THE WILDERNESS AND THE SOCIAL AND POLITICAL LIFE OF THE CAPITAL OF THE CONFEDERACY. JEFFERSON DAVIS, THE MEMBERS OF HIS CABINET, AND SEVERAL SOUTHERN GENERALS ARE CONSPICUOUS FIGURES IN THE TALE. (PRICE, \$1.50.)

DOUBLEDAY, PAGE & CO., 34 Union Square, New York.

"THE PIT" is the best-selling book in the United States.

"BOBS" His Trials, Tribulations and Triumphs.

By REGINALD LANG. Copyright by Philip Little.

CHAPTER XXV.

"The work on the house goes on well, does it, Bobs?"

"Yes, Mr. Elliot, very well. We have some trouble among the hodcarriers, but cannot find out where it arises. There seems to be a continual mild warfare going on, and yet not the symptoms of a strike."

"You cannot account for it?"

"Not in any way, sir. When I am there all is quiet, but as soon as I go away the boss says that the trouble commences. It is of an indefinite nature, but it is there."

"Cannot you get at the root of it?"

"There appears to be no root. It is all blossom about what I call it. It is a mild growl about nothing in particular and everything in general."

"Do they make complaint of any specific thing?"

"No, and that is the difficulty. If they would only come out flat-footed he would know what to do. As it is, he is at sea."

"Well, let it go on, then. It will do no harm, I guess."

Bobs put on his hat and coat and started for the new house. He was enjoying himself immensely with his work, but this matter had disturbed him considerably. It was so intangible. Arriving at the building, he went about his usual duties, and having finished the detail work, stood with the foreman near the front door, and close to a ladder up which the hod men were moving in regular rotation.

"Then we will go right along, Mr. Morgan, and not notice the growl?"

"Yes, Prentiss, so right ahead till we get at something definite."

The words were hardly out of Bobs' mouth when a falling brick struck him on the side of his hat, cut a deep hole through it, and the lad fell to the ground with the blood streaming down his face.

CHAPTER XXVI.

"Well, doctor, what is it?" asked Mr. Elliot anxiously, as he stood watching the surgeon make his examination.

"The bone has been driven in and is pressing upon the brain. It will operate at once. It is a perfectly simple matter, Mr. Elliot, so do not be alarmed. There is no danger to speak of in this case. The blow seems to have been a glancing one, fortunately, or I fear that the young chap would have been killed. How did it happen?"

Mr. Elliot told the circumstances as narrated to him by the foreman.

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